

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1           1-10. (Canceled)

1           11. (Currently Amended) A self-pinned abutted junction magnetic read  
2 sensor, comprising:

3           a free layer for sensing magnetic ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations;

4           first hard bias layers abutting the free layer; ~~and~~

5           second hard bias layers, formed over the first hard bias layers discontinuous from  
6 the free layer, a magnetization of the second hard bias layers being anti-parallel to a  
7 magnetization of the first hard bias layers, the first and second hard bias layers providing  
8 a net longitudinal bias on the free layer; and

9           a self-pinned layer, the self-pinned layer having a first end, a second end and  
10 central portion, wherein the central portion is aligned with the free layer and the first hard  
11 bias layers are formed over the first and second ends of the self-pinned layer.

1           12. (Original)     The sensor of claim 11, wherein the first hard bias layers is  
2 formed with a thickness substantially equal to a thickness of the second hard bias layers.

1           13. (Original)     The sensor of claim 11, wherein the first hard bias layers is  
2 formed with a thickness greater than a thickness of the second hard bias layers.

1           14.    (Original)    The sensor of claim 11 further comprising interlayers  
2 disposed between the first and second hard bias layers.

1           15.    (Canceled)

1           16.    (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim [[ 15 ]] 11 further comprising a  
2 spacer layer formed over the self-pinned layer and a first and second seed layer formed  
3 between the first and second hard bias layer and the spacer layer.

1           17.    (Original)    The sensor of claim 16 further comprising amorphous  
2 layers formed between the spacer and the first and second seed layers, the amorphous  
3 layer stopping epitaxial growth between the self-pinned layer and the first and second  
4 hard bias layers.

1           18.    (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim [[ 15 ]] 11 further comprising  
2 amorphous layers formed between the self-pinned layer and the first and second hard bias  
3 layers for stopping epitaxial growth between the self-pinned layer and the first and  
4 second hard bias layers.

1           19.    (Original)    The sensor of claim 11 further comprising first and second  
2 leads formed over the first and second hard bias layers.

1           20.    (Original)    The sensor of claim 11, wherein the free layer further  
2 comprises a length selected for a desired track width.

1           21.     (Currently Amended) A magnetic storage system, comprising:  
2           a moveable magnetic storage medium for storing data thereon;  
3           an actuator positionable relative to the moveable magnetic storage medium; and  
4           a magnetoresistive sensor, coupled to the actuator, for reading data from the  
5     magnetic recording medium when position to a desired location by the actuator, wherein  
6     the magnetoresistive sensor further comprises:  
7                     a free layer for sensing magnetic ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations;  
8                     first hard bias layers abutting the free layer; ~~and~~  
9                     second hard bias layers, formed over the first hard bias layers  
10    discontiguous from the free layer, a magnetization of the second hard bias layers being  
11    anti-parallel to a magnetization of the first hard bias layers, the first and second hard bias  
12    layers providing a net longitudinal bias on the free layer; and  
13                     a self-pinned layer, the self-pinned layer having a first end, a second end and  
14    central portion, wherein the central portion is aligned with the free layer and the first hard  
15    bias layers are formed over the first and second ends of the self-pinned layer.

1           22.     (Original)     The magnetic storage system of claim 21, wherein the first  
2     hard bias layers is formed with a thickness substantially equal to a thickness of the  
3     second hard bias layers.

1           23.    (Original)    The magnetic storage system of claim 21, wherein the first  
2    hard bias layers is formed with a thickness greater than a thickness of the second hard  
3    bias layers.

1           24.    (Original)    The magnetic storage system of claim 21 further  
2    comprising interlayers disposed between the first and second hard bias layers.

1           25.    (Canceled)

1           26.    (Currently Amended) The magnetic storage system of claim [[ 25 ]] 21  
2    further comprising a spacer layer formed over the self-pinned layer and a first and second  
3    seed layer formed between the first and second hard bias layer and the spacer layer.

1           27.    (Original)    The magnetic storage system of claim 26 further  
2    comprising amorphous layers formed between the spacer and the first and second seed  
3    layers, the amorphous layer stopping epitaxial growth between the self-pinned layer and  
4    the first and second hard bias layers.

1           28.    (Currently Amended) The magnetic storage system of claim [[ 25 ]] 21  
2    further comprising amorphous layers formed between the self-pinned layer and the first  
3    and second hard bias layers for stopping epitaxial growth between the self-pinned layer  
4    and the first and second hard bias layers.

1           29.     (Original)     The magnetic storage system of claim 21 further  
2     comprising first and second leads formed over the first and second hard bias layers.

1           30.     (Original)     The magnetic storage system of claim 21, wherein the free  
2     layer further comprises a length selected for a desired track width.

1           31.     (Currently Amended) A self-pinned abutted junction magnetic read  
2     sensor, comprising:  
3                 first means for sensing magnetic ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations;  
4                 first bias means abutting the first means on opposite sides of the first means; ~~and~~  
5                 second bias means, formed over the first bias means discontinuous from the first  
6     means for sensing magnetic ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations, a magnetization of the second bias  
7     means being anti-parallel to a magnetization of the first bias means, the first and second  
8     bias means providing a net longitudinal bias on the first means for sensing magnetic  
9     ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations; and  
10                a self-pinned layer, the self-pinned layer having a first end, a second end and  
11     central portion, wherein the central portion is aligned with the first means for sensing  
12     magnetic fluctuations and the first bias means are formed over the first and second ends  
13     of the self-pinned layer.

1           32.   (Currently Amended) A magnetic storage system, comprising:  
2           a moveable magnetic storage means for storing data thereon;  
3           an actuator positionable relative to the moveable magnetic storage medium; and  
4           a magnetoresistive sensor, coupled to the actuator, for reading data from the  
5   magnetic recording medium when position to a desired location by the actuator, wherein  
6   the magnetoresistive sensor further comprises:  
7                 first means for sensing magnetic ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations;  
8                 first bias means abutting the first means on opposite sides of the first  
9   means; ~~and~~  
10                second bias means, formed over the first bias means discontiguous from  
11   the first means for sensing magnetic ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations, a magnetization of the  
12   second bias means being anti-parallel to a magnetization of the first bias means, the first  
13   and second bias means providing a net longitudinal bias on the first means for sensing  
14   magnetic ~~fluxuations~~ fluctuations; and  
15                a self-pinned layer, the self-pinned layer having a first end, a second end and  
16   central portion, wherein the central portion is aligned with the first means for sensing  
17   magnetic fluctuations and the first bias means are formed over the first and second ends  
18   of the self-pinned layer.